

Remarks/Arguments:

With the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, 7-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 24-26 are presently pending. Claim 11 has been cancelled and the subject matter of claim 11 has been incorporated into claim 1.

Office Action Summary

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner checked the box indicating that some of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. In a telephone call to the Examiner on October 17, 2005 in which the Applicants' representative inquired as to which certified copies of the priority documents have not yet been received, the Examiner indicated that she inadvertently checked the incorrect box, and that, in fact, all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants respectfully request that the next Office Action indicates that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received by the Office.

Information Disclosure Statement

In the Office Action, The Examiner stated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 20, 2001, August 29, 2003, and September 20, 2004 fail to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP §609 because foreign non-patent literature has not been translated, including the two Japanese Office Actions and the article "Hajimete Tsukau Lotus 1-2-3". Applicants are submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement including English translations of the relevant portions of the afore-mentioned Japanese documents, along with the "Hajimete Tsukau Lotus 1-2-3" article. Acknowledgement of these references is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Figs. 16-19, 21, 26, and 27 were objected to as containing Japanese language. Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 27 contains no Japanese language. Figs. 16-19, 21, and 26 have been amended to translate the Japanese language in each of those Figures into English. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these translations. Applicants respectfully submit that Figs. 16-19, 21, 26, and 27 satisfy all drawing requirements and request that the objections to Figs. 16-19, 21, 26, and 27 be withdrawn.

Claim objections

Claims 3-6, 14, and 17 are objected to as not indicating that they are cancelled in the correspondence filed on May 29, 2001. With the present response, Applicants have indicated that these claims are cancelled. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

Claim rejections

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 10 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claim 10.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 16, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,926,230 to Nijima ("Nijima") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,954 to Young ("Young"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 11, which was not rejected over this combination. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over this combination of cited prior art and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as claims 2, 16, and 24, which all depend from claim 1.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, 7-11, 16, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,442 to Harada et al. ("Harada") in view of Young. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Under 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(1), subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f) and (g) of 35 U.S.C. §102, shall not preclude patentability where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. See 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(1).

Harada and the present application are co-owned and were both subject to common ownership at the time the claimed invention was made. The common owner is Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., as evidenced by the Assignment recorded in the USPTO at Reel 011878/Frame 0177 for the present invention, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, and the Patent Abstract of Title for Harada, a copy of which is also enclosed herewith. Harada would qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). However, due to the common ownership, Harada may be removed as a prior art reference.

Since Harada may be removed as a prior art reference, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 7-11, 16, and 24 are therefore patentable over the cited prior art and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Claims 12, 13, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Young and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,880,768 to Lemmons et al. ("Lemmons"). Claims 12, 13, 15, and 24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Young and further in view of Lemmons. Claims 12, 13, and 24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Young and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,005,565 to Legall et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claims 12, 13, 15, and 24 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12, 13, 15, and 24 are all patentable over the cited prior art for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

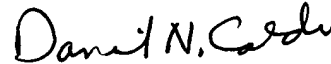
Claims 18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nijima in view of Young and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,133,909 to Schein et al. ("Schein"). Claims 18 and 24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Young and further in view of Schein. Claims 18 and 24 both depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18 and 24 are patentable over the cited prior art for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada in view of Nijima. Harada has been removed as prior art as discussed in detail above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claim 26 depends from claim 25 and Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is patentable over the cited prior art for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 25. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 25 and 26.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments, arguments, and common ownership between the present application and one of the cited prior art references, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 24-26 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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DNC/JEM/ds

Attachments: Replacement sheets for Figure(s) 16-19, 21, and 26 (6 sheets)
Assignment Recordation for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/806,651
Patent Assignment Abstract of Title for U.S. Patent No. 6,246,442

Dated: November 15, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

November 15, 2005

Deborah Spratt



Appln. No.: 09/806,651
Amendment Dated: November 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: August 19, 2005

MTS-3251US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 16-19, 21, and 26. These sheets replace the original sheets. The amended sheets provide English translations for the originally filed Japanese language. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered.

Attachment